

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed on January 20, 2006, claims 1-3, 6, 8, 15, 18, 20, 24, 25, 27 and 28 have been rejected as anticipated and/or obvious over one or more cited references. Claims 4, 5, 7, 9-14, 16, 17, 19, 21-23 and 26 have been objected to as depending from a rejected base claim but otherwise indicated to be allowable. Claims 29 and 30 have been allowed.

Claim 1 has been cancelled. Objected to claims 4, 15, 16, 24, and 26 have been canceled and rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of base claims. Specifically, new claim 31 represents formerly objected to claim 4, new claim 32 represents formerly objected to claim 15, new claim 33 represents formerly objected to claim 16, new claim 34 represents formerly objected to claim 24, and new claim 35 represents formerly objected to claim 26. New claims 31-35 are therefore allowable. Amendments have been made to other claims so that they depend from one of the allowable claims 31-35. As a result, all pending claims are allowable. Timely issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

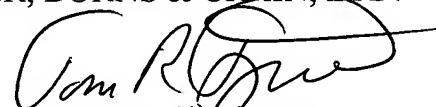
As a final note, Applicant notes that the Office Action Summary includes a check in box number 7 indicating that claims have been objected to, but that the summary lists the objected-to claims next to an unchecked box 8 indicating that they are subject to restriction and/or election requirement. The Office Action itself, however, makes clear that these claims were objected to and were not subject to a restriction and/or election requirement. This amendment has been prepared on the understanding that the Office Action Summary page included a typographical error, and that no restriction / election is required.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney by phone should any matters remain for attention before a Notice of Allowance can be issued.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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